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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

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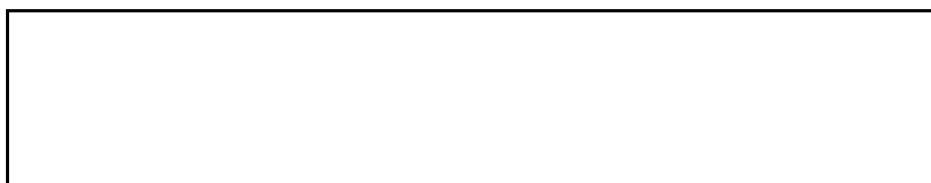
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4 March 1966

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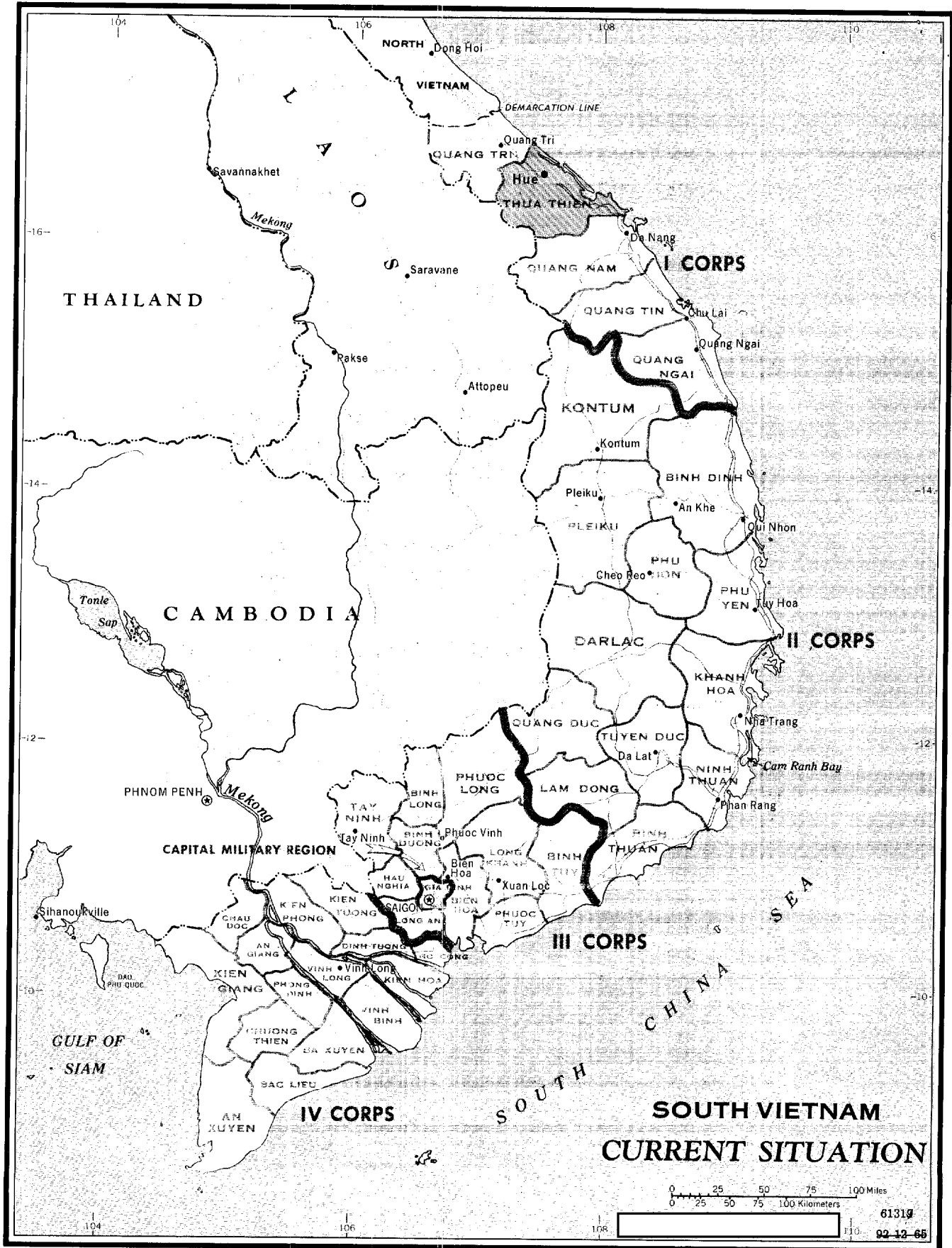
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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: A South Vietnamese force of approximately 500 troops began a search-and-destroy operation in the Demilitarized Zone today. US advisors were not to accompany these ARVN elements.

This operation is in reaction to a Viet Cong attack on a special police squad in that area on 2 March in which six officers were killed and 13 wounded. An ARVN force of this size operating in the Demilitarized Zone may result in a direct military response from North Vietnam.

South Vietnamese troops initiating an operation yesterday in Thua Thien Province reported engaging an estimated two companies of Viet Cong about 15 miles northwest of Huế. Casualty reports are not yet available.

During a clash with enemy forces in this vicinity on 28 February, government troops sustained casualties of 15 killed, 15 wounded, and 25 missing. Viet Cong losses were unknown.

The second instance this week of Viet Cong harassment of shipping in the Saigon River was reported yesterday, when a small South Vietnamese fuel barge caught fire during an enemy attack. Rescue forces quickly extinguished the fire and towed the barge back to Saigon. Six crew members were wounded during the incident.

Concerned officials are now considering counter-measures, including the arming of ships using the waterway and an increase in the number of river patrols.

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Indonesia: President Sukarno has made further moves to suppress opposition and to consolidate his authority.

Yesterday he ordered the temporary closing of the University of Indonesia in Djakarta and has banned all student activities both within its premises and outside. In recent days students had used university buildings as their headquarters for agitation against Foreign Minister Subandrio and other leftist cabinet members. On 2 March Sukarno had ordered the army to "surmount" incidents in Djakarta--an obvious reference to student unruliness--so that public order could be maintained.

The army seems acutely aware of the threat to its own political position which is posed by Sukarno's continued moves.

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the discussion of a wide range of possible responses varying from some form of direct action against the palace to simply waiting for Sukarno to die. Apparently there is considerable hope within the army that Subandrio can be brought to trial for implication in the events of 1 October.]

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Ghana-Africa: Radical Africans, led by Guinea's Sekou Touré, appear to have launched a strong political counteroffensive in behalf of the ousted Nkrumah.

At a mass meeting in Conakry on 2 March, called to welcome Nkrumah, Touré designated Nkrumah as "President of Guinea" and "foremost leader" of the ruling Democratic Party of Guinea--Touré's own positions. Although Touré's words may have been essentially a gesture of hospitality, his objective appears to be to enhance the exiled Nkrumah's status as a "legitimate" chief of state. In any event, Touré certainly plans to retain effective control over Guinean policy.

Subsequently, the Guinean secretary general of the OAU indicated that in his view Touré's announcement meant that Nkrumah was becoming president of a resurrected Guinea-Ghana Union, with Touré as its vice-president. Such a fictionally unified state would theoretically permit Nkrumah's representatives at international meetings to claim to speak for Ghana.

Touré's speech may also foreshadow major difficulties for US-Guinean relations. He stated that Guinea would judge the "honesty" of other countries of the world in their relations with Africa in terms of their attitude toward the Ghanaian rebels.

The radical African states, possibly influenced by Guinea's gestures, seem to be pushing the Ghanaian issue at the current OAU foreign ministers' conference at Addis Ababa to the point of breaking up the meeting.

Although representatives of the new regime in Accra had already been accorded the right to be seated in the plenary sessions, yesterday the delegates from

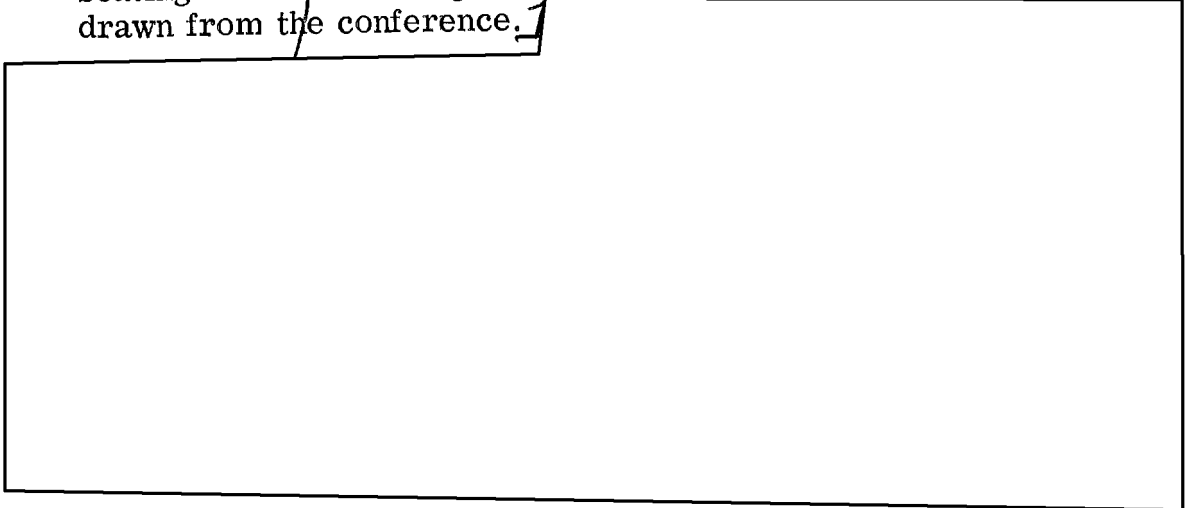
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Tanzania, Guinea, and Mali walked out of the meeting hall. They announced they could "no longer stay in a conference where delegates no longer fight imperialism." The Egyptian delegation, which also voted against the seating of the Accra regime's delegates, has also withdrawn from the conference.



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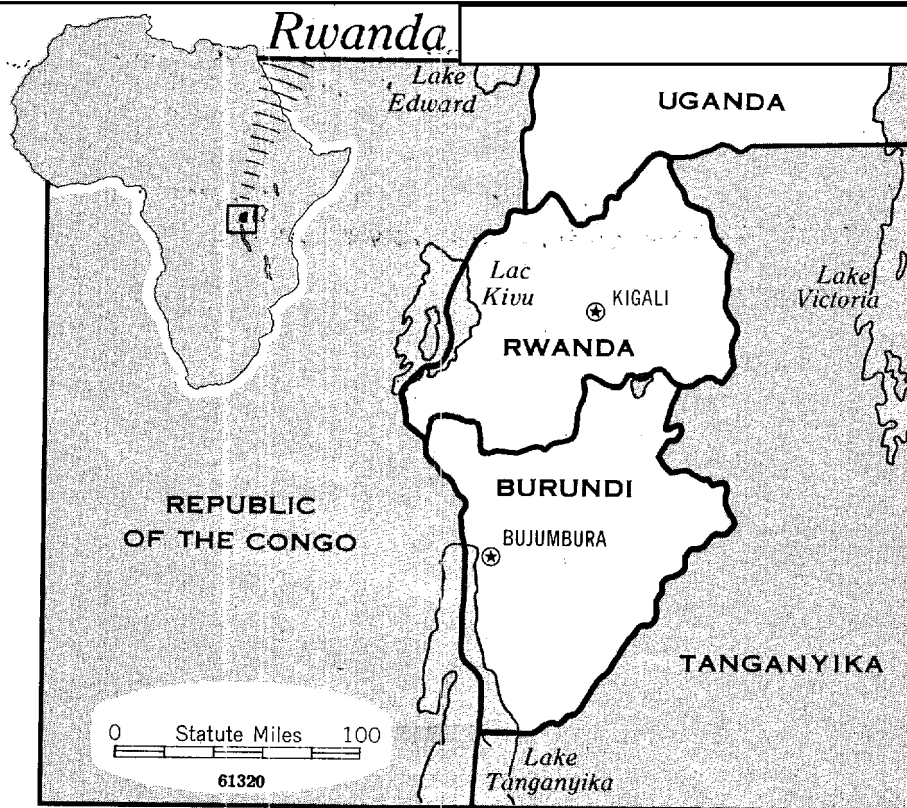
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